

## Lesson 6: Speaking Truth & Applying Change

### Primary Objectives:

1. Give brief synopsis of the class in a nutshell.
2. Clarify the role and the goal of speaking the truth in love.
3. Map out practical progressive steps for exhorting others.
4. Lay out building blocks for applying change to everyday life.

### 1. Give brief synopsis of the class in a nutshell.

**Week 1:** Explored the implications of creation, fall and redemption narratives to discover that an integral part of being human is to need truth and help from outside ourselves.

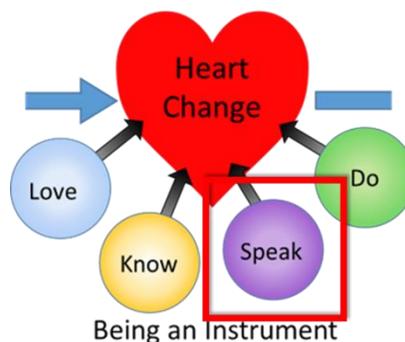
**Week 2:** Determined that lasting fruitful life change is always connected to addressing the controlling root desires of the heart.

**Week 3:** Examined the significance of having an ambassadorial role in how we serve as instruments of change, and identified 4 components of how focus on the heart: love, know, speak, do.

**Week 4:** Laid the groundwork for building loving relationships within a redemptive / adoptive framework in which God's work will thrive.

**Week 5:** Employed some "knowing" strategies centered on asking good questions for discovering where change is needed, in the context of a real-life scenario.

### 2. Clarify the role and the goal of speaking the truth in love.



2.1. The notion of speaking the truth in love is often associated with confronting and rebuke. Describe what thoughts and feelings come to mind when you consider being on the receiving or giving end of these.

**2.2. Examine the highlighted words in the following passages that translate the same Greek verb (parakaleo). What does this suggest about the role of helping others to mature in their walk of faith?**

**Romans 12:1:** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

**2 Corinthians 1:4:** who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction.

**2 Corinthians 10:1:** I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:1:** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11:** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**1 Timothy 5:1:** Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers.

**Hebrews 3:13:** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

**2.3. Study the following two goals Paul Tripp suggests are important for speaking the truth in love. What might be gospel-oriented outcomes for each of these?**

1. Be an Instrument of Seeing: help people see themselves in the mirror of God’s word.

**Desired Outcome:**

**2 Peter 1:3–4:** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2. Be an Agent of Repentance: call people to accept responsibility for sins of their heart and behavior and move in a godly direction.

**Desired Outcome:**

**Ephesians 4:1:** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

**Philippians 1:27:** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

**Colossians 1:10:** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

### **3. Map out practical steps for exhorting others.**

#### **3.1. Read the narrative of Nathan and David in 2 Samuel 12:1-12. Make some brief observations that describe the strategy Nathan used to confront David with his sin.**

**2 Samuel 12:1–12:** And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds, <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup> Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” <sup>5</sup> Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, <sup>6</sup> and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

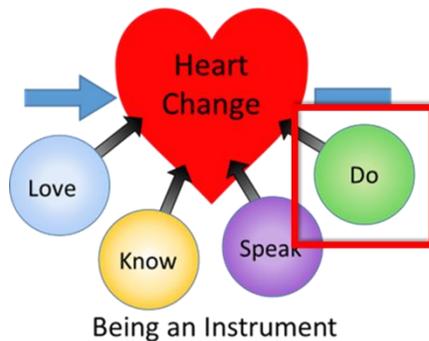
<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’”

**3.2. Attempt to put the following “steps” of exhortation/encouragement in a logical order. Then complete the questions associated with each?**

Confession | Change | Commitment | Consideration

1. \_\_\_\_\_: What does God want the person \_\_\_\_\_?
2. \_\_\_\_\_: What does God want the person \_\_\_\_\_?
3. \_\_\_\_\_: What does God want the person \_\_\_\_\_?
4. \_\_\_\_\_: What does God want the person \_\_\_\_\_?

**4. Lay out building blocks for applying change to everyday life.**



**Building Block #1: Establish the agenda (plan)**

Change is a \_\_\_\_\_: We need a sense of direction as we serve others.

**Building Block #2: Clarify responsibility**

Change is \_\_\_\_\_: We need to know who is responsible for what.

**Building Block #3: Instill identity in Christ**

Change is \_\_\_\_\_: We need to continually remind others of their position and resources in Christ.

**Building Block #4: Provide accountability**

Change demands \_\_\_\_\_: We need a system of oversight that provides structure, guidance, assistance, encouragement, and warning.